

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 90

May 23, 1997, 11:16 am
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BUDGET RESOLUTION/CBO New Estimate Funds for Tax & Deficit Cuts

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 1998-2002 . . . S.Con. Res. 27. Domenici motion to table the Domenici (for Grams) amendment No. 346.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 73-27

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. Con Res. 27, the Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal year 1998, will balance the Federal budget in fiscal year (FY) 2002 by slowing the overall rate of growth in spending over the next 5 years to below the rate of growth in revenue collections (the Congressional Budget Office recently revised upwards its 5-year revenue estimate by \$225 billion).

The Domenici (for Grams) amendment would adjust functional totals in the resolution to require that half of the \$225 billion in additional revenues that the Congressional Budget Office has recently estimated will be collected over the next 5 years be used for deficit reduction and that the other half be used for additional tax relief for the American people. Additionally, the amendment would freeze nondefense discretionary spending at its FY 1997 level for 5 years.

During debate on the resolution, the Grams amendment was offered and temporarily laid aside. After all debate time had expired, the Senate returned to the consideration of the amendment, and, by unanimous consent, a total of 4 minutes debate was allowed. Following debate, Senator Domenici moved to table the amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

This amendment would totally break the budget compromise. We would be back at ground zero. Also, we object to the freeze on nondefense discretionary spending. That spending will only increase by one-half of 1 percent annually, which is well below inflation. Also, for conservative Senators who are upset at even that nominal increase, we note that much of the increased spending

(See other side)

YEAS (73)			NAYS (27)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (28 or 51%)	Democrats (45 or 100%)		Republicans (27 or 49%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Akaka	Johnson	Allard			
Bennett	Baucus	Kennedy	Ashcroft			
Bond	Biden	Kerrey	Brownback			
Burns	Bingaman	Kerry	Coats			
Campbell	Boxer	Kohl	Coverdell			
Chafee	Breaux	Landrieu	Enzi			
Cochran	Bryan	Lautenberg	Faircloth			
Collins	Bumpers	Leahy	Gramm			
Craig	Byrd	Levin	Grams			
D'Amato	Cleland	Lieberman	Grassley			
DeWine	Conrad	Mikulski	Gregg			
Domenici	Daschle	Moseley-Braun	Helms			
Frist	Dodd	Moynihan	Hutchinson			
Gorton	Dorgan	Murray	Hutchison			
Hagel	Durbin	Reed	Inhofe			
Hatch	Feingold	Reid	Kyl			
Jeffords	Feinstein	Robb	McCain			
Kempthorne	Ford	Rockefeller	McConnell			
Lott	Glenn	Sarbanes	Nickles			
Lugar	Graham	Torricelli	Roth			
Mack	Harkin	Wellstone	Santorum			
Murkowski	Hollings	Wyden	Sessions			
Roberts	Inouye		Smith, Bob			
Shelby			Thomas			
Smith, Gordon			Thompson			
Snowe			Thurmond			
Specter			Warner			
Stevens						

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

(for defense and transportation) was at the request of conservatives in Congress. We are not willing to discard this budget compromise, nor are we willing to vote to freeze nondefense discretionary spending. Accordingly, we support the motion to table.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

Six weeks ago the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) announced that its estimate for the amount of revenue that will be collected for the next 5 years has gone up, and has gone up substantially. In total, it estimates that another \$225 billion will be collected. Instead of giving that \$225 billion back to the American people in much needed tax relief, budget negotiators used it, along with some other estimates, to pretty much declare the budget was in balance. From that point on they made adjustments to pay for new spending initiatives and tax cuts. In our opinion, the hard choices were dodged as soon as that \$225 billion dropped from the sky. Frankly, we think that it is a risky assumption to say that it will materialize. Therefore, we have proposed that fully half of it be used to cut the deficit, and the other half be given back to the American people in additional tax relief. We should then get back to the business of coming up with a real, honest plan to balance the budget, such as the plan Republicans proposed last Congress. The Grams amendment gives Senators one last chance to stop the charade. We urge them to vote against the motion to table.